

TALK MONEY BEFORE MARRIAGE, WHY NOT? QUERIES M'LISS

Nothing Indelicate in a Girl's Desire to Know the Amount of Her Dress and Housekeeping Allowance Before Putting Head in Noose

WHY is it that the girl who insists on having a heart to heart talk on the all-important subject of finance with her sweetheart before the marriage ceremony takes place, so that she will know exactly "where they stand," is usually thought by her family and friends to be mercenary and lacking in the finer sentiment.

"How crude" was the exclamation that one of my engaged friends allowed herself when I asked her if she had settled with her fiance on the amount he was to give her for the housekeeping expenses and what she was to have for her personal allowance.

"I'm sure John would think me most unromantic and precipitate if I should mention money to him," she continued. "It seems to me that he is the one to open this question, and as long as he hasn't said anything about it, I don't think it would be very good taste for me to begin it. Of course," she added a little wistfully, "it would be nice to have the thing all definitely settled. Somehow I hate to think of asking for money, even for the household expenses, and I'm sure if he doesn't offer of his own free will to give me a fixed allowance for my clothes and spending money, I'd rather die than ever ask him for it."

She is making a mistake. The time to settle the question of finance is before, not after the wedding bells have rung. Men are so used to having money in their pockets—even though it may be only a small amount—they don't realize the uncomfortable sensation of not only not having a penny, but not knowing when or where one is to be found.

This is the reason the dowry system that obtains abroad is not to be "sniffed at." It takes into account this peculiar failing of the masculine mind to grasp the fact that his wife cannot live on love and nothing a year.

I do not wish to infer that I believe the American man to be ungenerous with his wife. On the contrary, he is usually splendidly generous—but in fits and starts. He has his fat and his lean moods, so that the woman usually does not know "where she stands"—which is the popular phrase. She may have enough in her pocketbook one month to buy a Calot gown and Lanvin hat and not enough the next month to buy the baby shoes. It is this sort of system that is responsible for the American woman's much-talked-about extravagance.

One of the most happily married women I ever met took the bull by the horns when her fiance had not mentioned money so late as two days before they were married. She waited and waited, expecting him to take the initiative. But he was living in the clouds. She did not know whether she was to have five, ten, fifteen or twenty dollars per week for food. She hadn't an idea as to whether she would be expected to learn the gentle art of home dressmaking or whether she would be able to retain the modiste who pleased her so well before she married. She was perfectly willing to make every sacrifice that the man's salary made necessary, but she wanted to know "where she stood." So she up and asked.

"How do you look as though he had received an unexpected ducking on a cold day," she told me afterward, "but he got over it and we had a lovely time portioning the money out. At first, of course, he was hurt, and said, 'Why, dear, what's mine is yours; I thought you knew that.' But I was insistent that we get down to brass tacks. I told him I didn't want it all, and I was perfectly willing to take what he considered a fair amount. But I wanted to know just what I was going to get."

She has never regretted the stand she took. In my opinion it was the right one. What do you think about it?

Sartorial Divertissements

Despite the efforts of the moralists and certain of the sex whose ankles are not worthy of display, to make skirts come down, the indications are that the short "chicken" model is still to be with us. The abbreviated skirt is a Paquin pet, and the Paquin influence is not to be ignored.

The house of Premet, which has been responsible for many notable innovations, particularly the serge and taffeta combinations, the faced-up-the-back frock and the circular cape as the distinctive blouse note, is also sanctioning the short skirt. This establishment, however, gives an effect of length to its models by the use of the lace underskirt, which shows several inches below the overdress.

A short evening dress with a long train is the curious perpetration for which Martial et Armand are responsible.

Altogether the season is not to be without its divertissements, it would seem.

M'LISS.

Letters to the Editor of the Woman's Page

Address all communications to M'LISS, care of the Evening Ledger. Write on one side of the paper only.

Dear M'LISS—I don't think the question of gallantry a debatable one, for it seems to me the duty of a man is to be gallant to a woman. Such gallantry may occasionally be misunderstood and repulsed, but such repulses should by no means lead to the abandonment of a principle.

I travel at least four times a day on street cars and invariably proffer my seat to a lady. For to be candid, I would feel a loss of self-respect if I retained it while she stood beside me. As a rule I have been thanked by those ladies to whom I have been but ordinarily polite, but if thanks were lacking in every single instance that fact would not deter me from performing what I regard as a duty of my manhood.

Day after day I see men, young and apparently intelligent, pretend to read their newspapers while women cling to the straps above their heads. Such men I despise.

Dear M'LISS—Please give me a recipe for a quick sponge cake. CULINARY.

Two cups of flour, half cup of cold water and one and a half cups of sugar. Beat three eggs, two teaspoonsful of baking powder and one teaspoonful of flavoring extract, preferably lemon, are the ingredients you will require.

Cream the yolk of the eggs and sugar by beating. Add the water, and when well mixed put the flour in gradually, alternating with the beaten whites of the eggs. Bake in a quick oven for 30 or 35 minutes.

Dear M'LISS—What is the meaning of "meerschmum" and why are pipes so called? INTERESTED.

Literally "meerschmum" means "sea-foam." It is from the German "meer," meaning "sea," and "schum," foam. Pipes are made from meerschmum, a soft, clay-like mineral, which is light enough to float in water—hence the name.

Marion Harland's Corner

Words of a Song

I AM the Sunday school teacher of a class of boys who bear the class name of "champion." Their class song is, "Dare to do right, dare to be true." I do not know the words or tune, but am anxious to know both. If I could get them through the Corner I should be glad indeed and will pay any expenses. I should like the words, even if I could not get the music.

Your "champions" of right and truth could not have selected a better rallying cry. I pass your request along the line in which there are so many who will commend the sentiment and echo it, that you will surely get the words, and probably the music. Or, at any rate, you will be told in what collection of popular songs they may be found.

Starting a National Sorority

I have a question that I fear may not be in your field, but any information will be greatly received. A number of girls, all high school girls, are desirous of starting a national sorority. We have enough girls for three chapters, each one being in a different city. The thing which puzzles us is what steps should be taken. We have a Greek name, of course, but cannot claim it as our own until we find out if there is any other sorority by the same name. How could we find this out? Also

All communication addressed to Marion Harland should include a stamped, self-addressed envelope and a clipping of the article in which you are interested. Persons wishing to aid in the charitable work of the H. H. C. should write Marion Harland in care of this paper, and addresses of those they would like to help, should be received. Communicate direct with these parties.

Is there any book containing information relative to a constitution and suggestions for bylaws? E. A.

We have scores of active coworkers who consult us, now and then, with regard to sororities and who are promptly answered by members of such organizations. We turn over your queries to the latter class of correspondents and hold your signature subject to the call of any who can supply the desired information.

Meaning of the Apocrypha

"Although I have been interested in your Corner for a long time I have never asked for help until now. What is the meaning of the 'Apocrypha,' and why was it not included in the Old Testament canon? KATHERINE V."

I give you the definition set down in a sturdy encyclopedia: "The name was given in the early church to a set of writings of uncertain origin and authority, regarded by some as inspired, but rejected by most author-

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The turban is a model in pineapple straw. Flat straw rosettes applied to the turned-up brim form the only trimming. The model shown with the coat is bronze, although it comes in other color combinations at \$7.50. The name of the shop where these articles may be bought will be supplied by the Editor of the Woman's Page, EVENING LEDGER, 608 Chestnut street. The request must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope and must mention the date on which the article appeared.

ities and believers. Such works were acknowledged by most Christians to be useful and edifying, but were not included in the canonical writings of the church. There are fourteen books of the Apocrypha, and do not exist in the Hebrew Bible, but are found with others of like character scattered through the Septuagint and Vulgate editions of the Old Testament. In the Anglican and Lutheran churches the Apocrypha is read for examples of life and instruction of manner, but not for the establishment of doctrine.

A Three Corned Dispute

"Please settle this dispute if you can: A says that David Belasco, George M. Cohan, Eugene Walter and Sir Arthur Pinero are dramatists and living. B says they are novelists and dead. C says they are composers and living. Please answer the above; also tell what is the difference between a dramatist, a writer, and a novelist or composer? Study your dictionary, you will say? I have, but haven't been able to see the difference. 'LOTTIE R.'"

All the men you mention are dramatists and living, unless some one of them has died recently. David Belasco and George M. Cohan are theatrical managers as well as playwrights. A dramatist writes plays in such shape that they may be acted upon the stage. The novelist writes fiction as one might tell a story of real life. "Composer" is a word usually applied to the writer of music, although it may be used in the case of the dramatist who composes a play or the novelist who writes stories. Technically, it is, as I have said, employed to designate one who puts his thought into musical numbers.

HOUSEHOLD SUGGESTIONS

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NOW'S THE DAY AND NOW'S THE HOUR; SEE FAIR LADY'S POWER

29th of February Brings With It a Prerogative Buttressed by Honorable Tradition

LEAP YEAR'S APOGEE

Maid and Widow Alike Privileged to Choose Life Partners Whom They Know as Affinities

This is the day that proves it is leap year. Leap year is the year that women not only may choose their own mates without considering the desires of the men, as they always have done; but in addition, it is the year they may do so frankly without waiting for the men to bring forward blushing proposals which the girls have predestined they shall make to them.

So it is an important day. It is the 29th of February, four times rarer than Christmas. It is not marked by any particular ceremony, because, as a matter of fact, the famous leap year prerogative extends to every day in the year. It was leap year, you see, on January 1, and it will be leap year on December 31. And when you pass next December 31 and draw a breath of relief in January, 1917, because that dreaded leap year with its girl proposals is over, the girls will see no difference in the times, but will go on selecting the right man, willy nilly, just when he is unsuspecting and thinks himself safe.

FAMOUS LEAP YEAR PROPOSALS.

There are some celebrated cases of famous women coming out of cover and proposing directly as well as indirectly. There is a legend to the effect that Queen Elizabeth proposed to the Earl of Essex, who thereupon developed such tremendous speed that he qualified for the sprinter class. Only second in importance among women to the Virgin Queen is Inez Milholland Boissevain, in the opinion of Mr. and Mrs. Inez Milholland Boissevain. She proposed to Mr. Milholland Boissevain. She proposed to him three times before he guessed the right answer. She let it be known some time ago that she would consent to be interviewed on the subject.

"Do you believe that a woman should directly propose marriage to a man?" came the unexpected question. "Why, certainly," brightly replied the justly beautiful and famous young suffragette. "The one who first realizes the affinity of heart and soul should make it known to the other."

"To whom was this realization first made?" asked Mrs. Inez Milholland Boissevain. "In a majority of cases, among which is my own, this realization comes first to the woman," replied Mrs. Inez Milholland Boissevain. She went on to say that she did not believe in wedding rings and thought they were relics of barbarism. Relics, that is, of the days when women were the chattel of men.

It is a frightful thing to differ from this important personage, but it might be said parenthetically that the master of the chattel is the slave of the chattel. Any one who owns a houseful of furniture and a house, too, can tell you how that bunch of possessions comes in the end to own him. He has to stay and use it if he is really to own it; and if a man has to stay home in order to boss his wife, where is the "mastery" in that? Especially when so many women enjoy being bossed. The Sultan may have a thousand wives, but he rarely has the chance to leave Constantinople.

JULIUS CAESAR'S MISTAKE.

Fully intending to return to the proposal phase of leap year, let us take a look at the astronomical side of the case. Julius Caesar is credited with drawing up a calendar for 45 days and six hours to the year. That looked good enough, but after about 1500 years December's silver strands began to get entangled with the golden locks of June, speaking, so to speak, of the months began to show a tendency to overlap and get out of place. If they had let it go much farther we would soon have been eating Christmas pudding on the 4th of July, or what would have been much worse, not eating Christmas pudding on Christmas Day.

So the Pope, Gregory XIII, finding that Caesar had overlooked a little matter of 11 minutes and 12 seconds, which was an annual overflow removed 11 days from the calendar—jumped ahead that many—and established leap year. But that was not all; even that was not accurate enough. So once in 100 years we drop a leap year, and leap years are only such years that can be divided evenly by four. Now to return to the proposal feature of the leap year. One of the things which

Pupils Denied Many Things

"I am a teacher in a small and particularly needy rural school. My pupils are denied many things and we certainly feel the lack of music. I would gladly pay transportation on a phonograph and records. I can sincerely assure you that they will reach those who will appreciate and enjoy the gift. Surely there must be one for us somewhere. ANNA L."

She who pleads for benefactions for others than herself should receive double honor. I am sure that our junior members can collect enough music for the needy school for a few months. And that phonograph—cannot you imagine what a "joy forever" it would be in that village? Do not hoard a single one of the possessions supplanted by Christmas gifts of newer pattern. Keep them in circulation.

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BABIES SHOULD BE CUDDLED, SAYS WOMAN PHYSICIAN

Old-Fashioned Grandmothers Were Very Efficient Mothers and Knew How to Deal With Children

"I DOUBT if you could find a more efficient mother than the good, old-fashioned grandmothers who have raised a large family and know how to deal with the child," is the opinion of Dr. Eveleen A. Desreux, who has conducted clinics on pediatrics for a number of years and is interested in every phase of child life and hygiene.

"Then you don't approve of 'sterilized' babies? You think the modern method of needless upbringing and rigid hygienic measures are unnecessary?" she was asked. "No, indeed; each one of these things is good, but there is a certain amount of personal attention which every child, even the infant of a few months, must have, and cannot thrive without. I am strongly in favor of the nonkissing habit—children should be cuddled, though. Why, one of the wards of the Woman's Hospital is crowded with infants and children. For three years I had charge of the Northeastern Dispensary, and held daily clinics, at which I taught 'one who attended the principles of sanitation, proper care and feeding of children, ordinary household cleanliness and other things necessary for health and comfort. You see, the field of the woman doctor is practically unlimited. She can do more

good than any other one person, I think, if she chooses." "Did you encounter any opposition when you first started in to practice?" she was asked. "No, as a graduate of the Woman's Medical College, and practicing under the shadow of its walls, almost, I was a remarkable city in this respect. The women physicians receive the same recognition as do its men. I suppose it is because this city is looked upon as a medical center, and the Woman's College stands so well in the eyes of the community."

"Then, too, women are particularly at anything which is to the benefit of their sex. And I have seen many women patients enter the maternity ward of the Women's Hospital, and prefer to suffer and die rather than go to a man doctor, strange as it may seem. There are plenty of good medical opportunities open to women physicians, which weren't open in my time, such as school examiners, dental experts, and inspectors of institutions. Where the welfare of the child is at stake, women are the proper ones to protect it. It is for this reason, when we realize that the vast majority of children die, it is not so much to prepare ourselves to use it with intelligence and with the maximum benefit to ourselves and others. It is for this purpose and to correct an erroneous impression that the Catholic Church is opposed to science that the Philadelphia Suffrage League of Catholic Women formed last May, of which I am president. Used as it should be used, suffrage is a powerful weapon with which to champion the child's cause."

women will not have to observe in proposing, which men always observe in proposing, is to give a truthful account of their ability to support a husband. A man should do a little something toward earning his own bread and butter; the woman should not have to do most of the work, as she has been doing for the last several thousand years. So it is no more than fair that girls who propose this year should be allowed to fib a little about their resources. If some men are trapped under false pretenses, they will serve them right; they oughtn't to expect to have all the easy tasks of life, the loafing about offices and making small salaries while their wives are pinching and saving and creating in one way or another the equivalent of said small salaries.

So here's to the girl that tricks a man into marrying her in the belief that she is going to loaf on her money or on her earning and saving equivalent of money. There are, however, certain leap year game laws. A girl should not exaggerate her beauty by hiding some of its lines. She should hunt with a face as directly clear of decorative effects. Her dress should not be more fascinating than the words "I love you" are the legal equivalent of "Will you marry me?" They mean precisely the same thing, and any girl who says the one and does not do the other is unworthy of saying either.

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MILLIE AND HER MILLIONS WHAT THE DOCTOR DOESN'T KNOW WON'T HURT HIM



"HOW IS MONTY'S FINGER TODAY, MILLIE?" "IT DOESN'T SEEM TO GET MUCH BETTER, AUNT."

"I'M AFRAID IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE HE CAN GOON WITH HIS DUMB-BELL EXERCISES."

"A GENTLEMAN TO SEE YOU, MADAM."

"OH! IT'S DOCTOR STEELE. TELL HIM I'LL COME DOWN AT ONCE, FIFINE."

"I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME, DOCTOR. VERY KIND OF YOU TO SAY SO, MRS. VAN OODLES."

"WHILE YOU'RE HERE I WANT YOU TO SEE MONTY'S FINGER."

